

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF LIGHTNING FLASHES TAKEN SEPTEMBER 18, 1888.

BY C. RAY WOODS.

[READ 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1888.]

AT the meeting held here a month ago I brought forward some attempts made to photograph lightning flashes during the thunderstorm of July 30th. I on that occasion drew attention to the report issued by the Thunderstorm Committee of the Royal Meteorological Society with various illustrations from the "Photo News" and by photographers in this Colony. A consideration of the various photos of lightning flashes that had passed through my hands led me to draw a different conclusion to that given in the report, which said that there was reason to believe that "lightning assumes various forms under conditions at present unknown." The view that I ventured to put forward was that the conditions did not greatly differ from experiments in high tension electricity made in the laboratory; that it is more probable that lightning only assumes two forms, the single spark and the compound flash or series of sparks, the various forms of the latter being due to modification in appearance only by the obstruction of cloud masses.

The photographs taken on the 18th do not tend in any way to modify those views. Apart from the point brought forward in my last part, I shall merely content myself with a brief description of the photos. It would be interesting to speculate on the physical, chiefly electrical, conditions of this and the preceding storm, but as any evidence that may be derived from these photos is too meagre for any theorizing beyond vague suppositions, and unless any points are brought forward in discussion to cause me to express any vague ideas I may have formed thereon, I prefer to postpone the matter till I can speak with greater confidence. By the time the next thunderstorm occurs, I hope to be in a position to record it on a more extensive scale.